



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Patent Application of

WARD-CLOSE et al

Atty. Ref.: 4827-5; Confirmation No. 2518

Appl. No. 10/529,234

TC/A.U. 1793

Filed: August 31, 2005

Examiner: Kessler

For: PURIFICATION OF ELECTROCHEMICALLY DEOXIDISED REFRACTORY METAL
PARTICLES BY HEAT PROCESSING

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March 7, 2008

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

This is responsive to the Official Action of January 9, 2008. Petition is hereby made for a one month extension of time for which our check or payment in the appropriate amount is attached.

Restriction is required with respect to claims 31-50; three separate groups have been identified.

Applicants elect the subject matter of Group I, that is claims directed to methods of purifying and metal powder. The examiner lists only claim 31 as falling within this group however, by definition, all claims depending either directly or indirectly from claim 31 also fall within the elected group. None of them are multiply dependent. This means that in addition to claim 31, claims 33, 36-38, 41-43 and 45 fall within Group I which has been elected for purposes of examination.

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Please examine claims 31, 33, 36-38, 41-43 and 45 taking into account the U.S. patent documents identified on form PTO-1449 included with the original application papers as well as the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently with this response.

Should the examiner require further information or documentation, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



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